

RESTRICTED — Not to be released outside the General Accounting Office except on the basis of specific approval by the Office of Congressional Relations, a record of which is kept by the Distribution Section, Publications Branch, OAS

089220



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

~~4.11.56~~

74-0438

B-159219

RELEASED

OCT 9 1973

ci The Honorable Les Aspin
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Aspin:

In your letter of June 26, 1973, you asked us to investigate the simulated prisoner of war (POW) camp at the Air Force Academy and other similar camps operated by the military services. 810

Enclosed are fact sheets showing the information you requested on locations, costs, and curriculums of these camps. To answer your questions, we obtained information from the services and visited the Air Force Academy; however, we did not independently verify this information. Because Army training is highly decentralized, most of the requested information was not readily available; however, we have shown the locations of Army training camps.

Except for the Marine Corps, each service operates simulated POW camps as part of survival, evasion, resistance, and escape (SERE) training. This training is authorized by Department of Defense Directive 1300.7 dated July 8, 1964. Although the directive does not indicate that a simulated POW facility should be used, it does require uniform SERE training. We noted that no one at the Office of the Secretary of Defense or service headquarters monitored the training to insure uniformity.

We trust this information satisfies your request.

Sincerely yours,

Comptroller General
of the United States

Enclosure

904372

089220

ENCLOSURE

SIMULATED POW FACILITIES IN THE NAVY AND AIR FORCE

	<u>Estimated costs</u>		Fiscal year 1973 student loads	Curriculum hours in POW facility	Training injuries by fiscal year		
	<u>Facilities</u>	SERE training for fiscal year 1973 (note a)			<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1973</u>
NAVY:							
Redington Township, Maine	\$250,000	\$ 650,000	674	30	0	0	0
Warner Springs, Calif.	(b)	1,300,000	1,094	30	1	1	0
AIR FORCE:							
Air Force Academy, Colo.	9,000	258,000	1,117	36	15	0	1
Fairchild AFB, Wash.	266,000	2,800,000	7,759	32	1	1	0

*Costs to operate the simulated POW facilities are not maintained separately because the training is included in SERE training.

^bUnknown. Buildings and equipment were obtained from surplus.

BEST DOCUMENT AVAILABLE

LOCATIONS OF SIMULATED
POW FACILITIES IN THE ARMY

Location

FORMAL SCHOOLS:

Fort Rucker, Alabama
Fort Benning, Georgia
Fort Gordon, Georgia
Fort Belvoir, Virginia

ARMY TRAINING CENTERS:

Fort Knox, Kentucky
Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri
Fort Ord, California
Fort Jackson, South Carolina
Fort Dix, New Jersey
Fort Polk, Louisiana

TRAINING AT UNIT LEVELS:

Headquarters, U.S. Army,
Pacific, Hawaii
Fort Hood, Texas
Fort Bragg, North Carolina
Fort McClellan, Alabama

AIR FORCE AND NAVY FACILITIESAIR FORCE

At Fairchild AFB, the compound consists of about 80,000 square feet enclosed by a fence. Other facilities near or in the compound include guard towers and about 19 buildings of various sizes used for interrogation, isolation, indoctrination, and storage of safety equipment.

The compound at the Air Force Academy consists of about 36,000 square feet enclosed by a fence. Buildings and structures include two small buildings, a guard tower, and some isolation boxes. About 36 tents are used for isolation, interrogation, and indoctrination.

During fiscal year 1973 the Air Force Academy submitted a proposal to Air Force headquarters for constructing additional simulated POW facilities for about \$244,000. The new facilities were proposed because the existing facility was considered inadequate. The Air Training Command, which oversees Air Force training, indicated that, if the Academy did not provide adequate facilities, the Command would have to recommend to Air Force headquarters that the Academy SERE program not be accredited. Headquarters did not approve the proposal.

NAVY

The fenced-in compound at Warner Springs consists of about 87,000 square feet and has portable buildings and equipment. The compound area at Redington Township is about 43,500 square feet, and facilities are permanent because of the winter climate.

AIR FORCE AND NAVY CURRICULUMSAIR FORCE

Training at Fairchild AFB in the simulated POW facilities is in two phases. In one phase, the student is isolated and interrogated. Generally students are interrogated twice for a minimum of 90 minutes. The second phase is group resistance in the compound area. During this phase, group resistance techniques are stressed and students are subject to additional interrogation.

Training in the simulated POW facility at the Air Force Academy is similar to that at Fairchild AFB. Some physical handling is permitted during the indoctrination and compound phase. Instructors are not permitted to use fists, feet, or sticks on the students. Physical handling is limited to those students who are the staunchest resisters. Only selected instructors are allowed to physically handle the students.

NAVY

At Redington Township and Warner Springs the student is isolated and interrogated during one phase of the training within the compound. In another phase, all the students are released into the compound area and dilemmas are created to cause dissension between groups and individuals. Instructors are not allowed to use fists, feet, or sticks on the students.